

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-58 remain in this application.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected Claims 8-9, 13-15, 19-21, 23, 28, 36-37, 41-43, 47-49, 51 and 56-58 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Logan et al. (Re: 36,801) in view of Abecassis (US 6,553,178 B2). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding Claim 20, Claim 20 appears as follows:

20. A process for a digital video recorder, comprising the steps of:

storing a plurality of multimedia programs in digital form on a storage device;

displaying a list of pre-recorded multimedia programs stored on said storage device to a user;

wherein the user selects multimedia programs from said list;

simultaneously playing back at least two of said selected multimedia programs from said storage device or at least one of said selected multimedia programs and a multimedia program whose storage is in progress to at least one television monitor; and

wherein said playing back step allows playback rate and direction of each multimedia program to be controlled individually to perform

variable rate fast forward and rewind, frame step, pause, and play functions.

The Office Action states that Logan discloses:

“playing back at least two of said multimedia programs from said storage device to at least one television monitor (col. 3, lines 4-17)”

However, this is an incorrect interpretation of Logan. Logan in col. 3, lines 4-17 state (emphasis added):

“As seen in FIG. 1, one or more incoming video signals are combined at a switching node 3 after being processed by one or more input signal processing units shown generally within the dotted rectangle 12. The node 3 applies selected ones of the compressed digital signals from the input unit 5 to the input (writing) port of a dual-port memory subsystem 5 comprising a RAM buffer memory 6 and a hard disk magnetic memory 7. The memory subsystem 5 continually stores the incoming data, writing over the oldest data stored on the hard disk 7, so that a fixed duration or "time window" of prior recorded signals are recorded in the memory subsystem 5 at all times. **The recorded information is also continuously read from the memory subsystem 5 and supplied to via a decompressor 8 to a video display unit 10.**”

Logan does not teach, disclose, or contemplate a system that simultaneously plays back at least two of said selected multimedia programs from said storage device or at least one of said selected multimedia programs and a multimedia program whose storage

is in progress to at least one television monitor as claimed in the invention. Logan makes it clear that his invention can only process one recorded signal at a time to be output to a video display unit. Fig. 1 and the above cited text clearly show that Logan has one (1) decompressor which means that Logan can only process one output signal at a time. Fig. 2 and col. 4, lines 21-29 further support this (emphasis added):

“The microcontroller 22 also selects **a location** in the memory system 23 from which programming is to be read, and **the retrieved signal** is supplied to a **decompressor** 25 which translates the compressed information back into digitally expressed analog sample amplitude values which are supplied to a **digital-to-analog converter** 26. The converter 26 restores **the retrieved video signal** to its original analog form as received and **the analog video signal** is applied to a video display 30.”

Logan clearly teaches that a single decompressor is used to translate a single retrieved signal which is then sent to a digital-to-analog converter.

Therefore, Logan teaches away from the claimed invention by teaching that one decompressor is required and only one retrieved signal is translated at a time. Logan does not contemplate simultaneously playing back at least two of said selected multimedia programs from said storage device or at least one of said selected multimedia programs and a multimedia program whose storage is in progress to at least one television monitor as claimed in the invention.

Logan further does not teach, disclose, or contemplate a system wherein said playing back step allows playback rate and direction of each multimedia program to be controlled individually to perform variable rate fast forward and rewind, frame step, pause, and play functions as claimed in the invention. As discussed above, Logan does not contemplate playing back at least two multimedia programs from a storage device which means that Logan does not contemplate allowing the playback rate and direction of each multimedia program to be controlled individually. Logan teaches away from the claimed invention by teaching that only one retrieved signal can be translated and controlled at a time.

Therefore, Logan et al. in view of Abecassis do not teach or disclose the invention as claimed.

Claims 20 and 48 are in allowable condition. Claims 8, 14, 36, and 42 are allowable in the same manner. Claims 9, 13, and 15, 19, and 21, 23, 28, 57, and 37, 41, and 43, 47, and 49, 51, 56, 58 are dependent upon independent Claims 8, 14, 20, 36, 42, and 48, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected Claims 11, 17, 22, 39, 45 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Logan et al. (Re: 36,801) in view of Abecassis (US 6,553,178 B2) as applied to claims 8, 14, 21, 36, 42 and 49, and further in view of Mankovitz et al ('195 B1). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The rejection under 35 USC §103(a) is deemed moot in view of Applicant's comments regarding Claims 8, 14, 20, 36, 42, and 48, above. Claims 11, 17, 22, 39, 45 and 50 are dependent upon Independent Claims 8, 14, 20, 36, 42, and 48, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 USC §103(a).

IV. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected Claims 10, 12, 16, 18, 24-25, 38, 40, 44, 46 and 52-53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan et al. (Re: 36,801) in view of Abecassis (US 6,553,178 B2) as applied to claims 8, 14, 20, 36, 42 and 48, and further in view of Fujita et al ('619 B1). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The rejection under 35 USC §103(a) is deemed moot in view of Applicant's comments regarding Claims 8, 14, 20, 36, 42, and 48, above. Claims 10, 12, and 16, 18, and 24-25, and 38, 40, and 44, 46 and 52-53 are dependent upon Independent Claims 8, 14, 20, 36, 42, and 48, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 USC §103(a).

V. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected Claims 26-27 and 54-55 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan et al. (Re: 36,801) in view of Abecassis (US 6,553,178 B2) as applied to claims 20 and 48, and further in view of Kobayashi et al ('254). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The rejection under 35 USC §103(a) is deemed moot in view of Applicant's comments regarding Claims 8, 14, 20, 36, 42, and 48, above. Claims 26-27 and 54-55 are dependent upon Independent Claims 20 and 48, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 USC §103(a).

VI. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-2, 6-7, 29-30 and 34-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan et al. (Re: 36,801) in view of Kobayashi et al ('254) and further in view of Yasukohchi et al ('837 B1). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above with respect to Claims 8, 14, 20, 36, 42, and 48, Logan does not teach, disclose, or contemplate a system wherein said decoding step allows playback rate and direction of each television output signal to be controlled individually to perform variable rate fast forward and rewind, frame step, pause, and play functions as claimed in the invention. Logan teaches away from the claimed invention by teaching that only one retrieved signal can be translated and controlled at a time which means that Logan does not contemplate providing a plurality of output devices wherein each output device extracts a specific video and audio component from said storage device, decoding each specific video and audio component into a television output signal, and wherein said decoding step allows playback rate and direction of each television output signal to be controlled individually to perform variable rate fast forward and rewind, frame step, pause, and play functions as claimed in the invention.

Combining Logan, Kobayashi, and Yasukohchi as the Office Action suggests does not result in the claimed invention.

Therefore, Logan et al. in view of Kobayashi and further in view of Yasukohchi do not teach or disclose the invention as claimed.

Claims 1 and 29 are in allowable condition. Claims 2, 6-7, and 30, 34-35 are dependent upon independent Claims 1 and 29, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

VII. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected Claims 3, 5, 31 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan et al. (Re: 36,801) in view of Kobayashi et al ('254) and Yasukohchi et al ('837 B1) as applied to claims 1 and 29, and in further view of Fujita et al ('619 B1). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The rejection under 35 USC §103(a) is deemed moot in view of Applicant's comments regarding Claims 1 and 29, above. Claims 3, 5, and 31, 33 are dependent upon Independent Claims 1 and 29, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 USC §103(a).

VIII. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected Claims 4 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan et al. (Re: 36,801) in view of Kobayashi et al ('254) and Yasukohchi et al ('837 B1) as applied to claims 1 and 29, and in further view of Mankovitz et al ('195 B1). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The rejection under 35 USC §103(a) is deemed moot in view of Applicant's comments regarding Claims 1 and 29, above. Claims 4 and 32 are dependent upon Independent Claims 1 and 29, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 USC §103(a).

IX. CONCLUSIONS & MISCELLANEOUS

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

The Applicants believe that all issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed and that allowance of the pending claims is appropriate. Entry of the amendments herein and further examination on the merits are respectfully requested.


The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (408) 414-1080 to discuss any issue that may advance prosecution.

No fee is believed to be due specifically in connection with this Reply. To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee that may be due in connection with this Reply to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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